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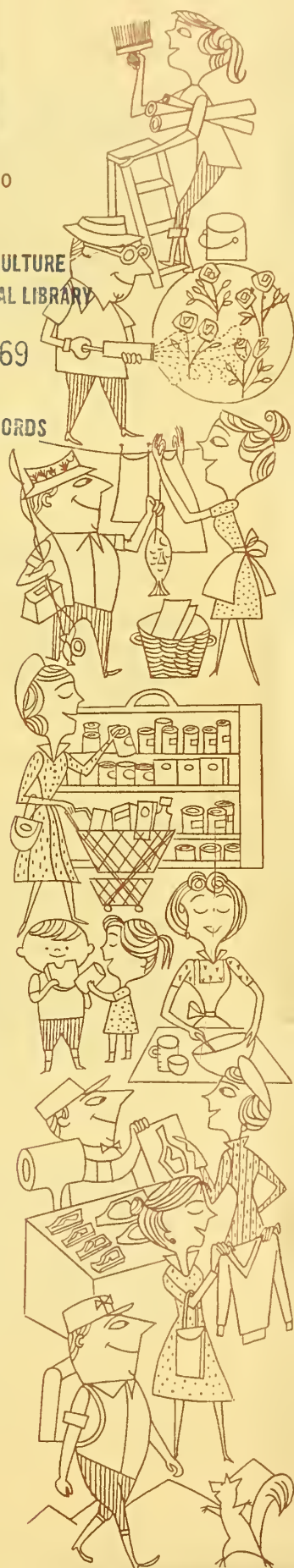
USDA'S REPORT TO CONSUMERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · OFFICE OF INFORMATION · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS



February 1969

No. 61

SPRINGTIME IS JUST...

Around the Corner. Think-time is Now for the home gardener--action-time will soon follow. To millions in the U.S., lawn and garden care is a delightful hobby--it provides a satisfying hour or two with nature. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with garden clubs, leaders in industry and trade associations will celebrate the week of March 20-26 as National Lawn and Garden Week. The purpose of the observance is to improve the appearance of our surroundings with green and growing plants in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities--not just for one week but through the year. The theme of this year's observance is "Growing With America."

ON THE CHEESE TRAY

You Say You've Never Tried Sufu? No, it's not really new-- the Chinese have been making it for centuries. Sufu, a soybean cheese, made from Tofu (a soybean curd) is a soft, yellow cheese with a pleasant taste and odor. Originally, it had a beany flavor, but a Taiwan scientist found a way to get rid of the unpleasant flavor. U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists say it could be enhanced by Western flavors such as garlic, wine, or peppers. Don't rush to the corner store to buy sufu however, it is still a "soon to be available" item...but not yet.

SUPER SLED

Snowmobiling's "In" --And It's Great Fun Too. Just ask any enthusiast of the fastest growing winter sport. It's become so popular on the National Forests of New England and the Lake States (Minnesota-Wisconsin-Michigan) that the USDA's Forest Service has developed more than 1,000 miles of snowmobile trails in those areas alone. Although snowmobiles increase forest management problems, the Forest Service encourages the sport because it creates year-round recreational opportunities. To promote safety and reinforce consideration of conservation values, the Forest Service has published a leaflet on "Snowmobile Safety" and developed a list of common sense rules called a "Snowmobile Code of Ethics." More information on snowmobile facilities is available from the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 633 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203.

TRY BIRD WATCHING?

'Tis the Time of Year. No, not to be jolly--that was months ago. If you'd like to do something this year for the birds--not people--then here's your chance. A USDA publication, "Invite Birds to Your Home" was designed to interest people in planting for birds, beauty and soil and water protection. Among the plants suggested to attract the birds are the autumn olive, holly, sumac, and mountain ash. This is a natural way to invite birds into your home and your garden. Birds like variety. When you plan your garden, keep your bird-friends in mind. Birds enjoy bright hued and decorative berry plants. A colorful chart published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture--PA 840--may help start a new family project. "Invite Birds to Your Home" is available for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402--Price: 20 cents.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

A Radish or A Rosebud? There's a difference. There's a similarity too. Radishes are just about as fragile as rosebuds and they're both problems to ship. U.S. Department of Agriculture research transportation specialists have developed a new method for keeping radishes fresh and safer in transport. The new system allows air to circulate better because of a new criss-cross row pattern.

MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORT

Skiing's Still King. The favorite winter sport in the National Forests is still skiing, especially in the West where 80 percent of the major ski areas are located on National Forest land. The Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has just revised it's booklet "Skiing" with up-to-date information on more than 200 National Forest ski areas. The booklet also includes a picture page of the 12 standard national ski area signs. They may be cut out by the novice skier and carried with him for easy reference. Copies of "Skiing" are available for 50 cents from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

PICK THE PLENTIFULS

Mid-Winter Fare. Versatile broiler-fryers head the U.S. Department of Agriculture list of plentiful for February--followed by green split peas, pork, canned salmon, potatoes, onions, canned tomatoes and tomato products, canned and frozen sweet corn, fresh oranges, fresh grapefruit, canned grapefruit juice, and dried prunes. A party-supreme could develop from following the plentiful this month--or just a well-rounded meal for folks-at-home.

TASTE BUDS TELL

Longer Storage Life. Milk apparently is a sturdier product--less perishable than we realized--according to new research reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under normal household refrigeration (usually 45° or 50°) milk keeps an average of seven days. Tests also show that simply lowering the temperature to freezing or slightly above will extend storage life to as long as seven weeks. Under research conditions milk pasteurized under higher-than-normal temperatures could keep as long as 20 weeks or more. Taste panels are used to test milk samples stored at various temperatures and subjected to bacteriological tests. These findings will provide information not only for home and commercial storage of milk but for the entire distribution practices of the fresh milk industry.

HOLDING POWER

For Gladiolus: Longer Life. What is needed to preserve fresh-cut gladiolus? The question is being answered by U. S. Department of Agriculture research scientists. Studies of effective holding solutions help solve the mystery of how such preservatives do their job. One formula can double vase life of gladiolus and improve the quality of the fresh-cut flowers. One key to the problem is increasing the ability of flowers to retain water. If used ineffectively however, the procedure could shorten the life of the flower. Holding solutions, when perfected, could be valuable supplements for florist and consumer use. Future research hopefully will provide answers to preserving all types of flowers.

NEW DIMENSIONS

Food Stamp Progress. An innovation in the Food Stamp program is adding convenience and extra service for participants. Under a new arrangement, food stamp users may purchase stamps from credit unions in Washington, D.C., and three Connecticut cities. Credit unions are open longer hours than most banks and they are often easier to reach than banks. The food stamp program, administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, allows eligible families to invest in coupons worth more, in terms of food purchases, than their money. The coupons are then used like cash to purchase food. More credit unions are expected to participate in handling the food stamps.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

New Peach Variety. Fairtime, a new peach variety, was developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists in California and is now available to fruit growers. Fairtime produces large, round freestone peaches and extends the ripening season of high quality varieties. It is superior in attractiveness, fruit size and shape, as well as flesh texture and quality in comparison with older varieties ripening in the same season. There is red color around the pit and the flesh is yellow, firm but melting and smooth textured. The flavor is very good. For more information about the new Fairtime variety, write to Dr. John H. Weinberger, U. S. Horticultural Field Station, 2021 S. Peach Avenue, Fresno, California, 93727

PUBLICATIONS

Open Space - ERS Misc. Publication 1121

Program Chairmen--Project: Open Space. How many people realize the multiple benefits of open space? Some even say "what does 'open space' mean?" Properly developed, open spaces help create scenic areas; recharge the air with oxygen because of the trees and green plants; allow rain water to seep into the water table rather than run off; and avoid silt pollution and flooding of streams. Club groups may form information and education programs to help preserve open space. A new booklet published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture describes the "hows" and "whys" of open space. A helpful guide to any club program director, the publication includes a list of source materials for other reference. It is available from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for 20 cent.

Nutrition--Food At Work For You

H&G No. 1 Supplement

Take a Tip. Meal planning can be interesting if your nutrition education becomes meaningful. Vary flavors and textures in planning meals suggests U. S. Department of Agriculture home economists. Include a variety of foods in your menus and collect (and use) recipes stressing the basic four food groups--milk, meat, vegetable (fruit) and bread (cereal). Brighten your food with color; a slice to tomato, a sprig of dark greens a dash of pimento. Be creative with food. Order the new booklet for more ideas, a separate section of USDA's original Family Fare, H&G 1, known as "Nutrition--Food At Work For You"--Price 10 cents.

New Slide Sets--Filmstrips

"How Food Affects You," C-156, is the newest color slide series on food produced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service. What foods do for your body is explained in the 47-frame presentation available as a slide set or filmstrip (both \$5.50) available now. It's an ideal teaching aid for home economists, scout groups and other youth organizations. "Revelations of a Register Tape, or the Baffling Case of the Ever-Growing Grocery Bill," C-119 is the name of a new slide set (\$8.00) and filmstrip (\$7.50) being released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture this month. A taped narration is available for \$1.00. The non-technical 71-frame color presentation in bright and popular art work tells what influences your grocery bill. Order the slide set from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Order filmstrips from the Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20011

SERVICE is a monthly newsletter of consumer interest. It is designed for those who report to the individual consumer rather than for mass distribution. For information about items in this issue, write: Shirley E. Wagener, Editor of SERVICE, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Information, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please include your zipcode.